# Automatic Inventory Collection
for
Workstation Standardization and Centralization (WSC) customers

Summary

To connect our automated inventory of Windows computers in Operations with the Lab's Asset Management System (AMS), a script will run when a user logs on to the Lab's Windows domain. The script will ensure that the DOE property number has been properly recorded on the user's computer. If it has not been recorded, the script will prompt the user to enter the computer's DOE number so that it can be automatically written to the computer's hard drive.

How it works

Users of Windows domain accounts will see the following message when they log on to their computers. Once a valid DOE number is entered, the message will not appear again.
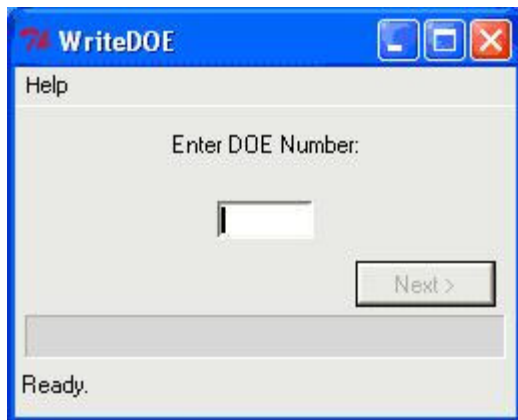
The application prompts users for a DOE number, usually located on a small white sticker on the front of your computer. Please type in the DOE number and click [Next]. A screen shot of a typical DOE number is below for reference.

Background

The IT Division continues to develop the concept of automated inventory collection for Windows computers. As of June 30, 2006 over 1,340 Labwide systems including 500 used by Operations staff have been inventoried as a result of logging on to the LBNL Windows domain. Some of these systems (including many in EH&S and some in Bldg. 937) already have the DOE property tag electronically recorded in the computer. The goal of this effort is to increase the number of computers that can self report the DOE number along with other basic information about the computer.

The DOE property number collection script has been successfully tested with IT and EH&S customers. The DOE number is also recorded on all new computers deployed by the Mac/PC Support Group. The WSC Support team will now extend this to all Operations customers.

Benefits

The DOE number will be associated with other inventory data automatically acquired from each participating computer. This data will assist us in reconciling the current location and users of managed computer assets with the official property records maintained in AMS. The WSC initiative depends on accurate property records and location data to help in determining ongoing support and budgets for equipment replenishment.

Technical details

The IT division has developed a small program that asks for a DOE number and will validate it against the AMS property database. When validated, the number, time/date stamp and a flag that indicates success is written to a new set of registry keys. If the number can not be validated (either because the system that does the validation is not operational or because the user fails to type in the correct number three successive times), the attempt is recorded, but the verify flag is set to No. The process can then be run silently at a later point in time to validate the data automatically.